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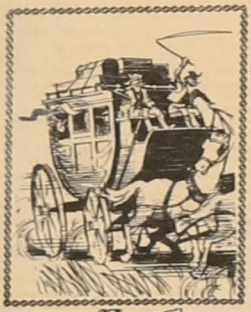

NOVEMBER 1974

FLASH BACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

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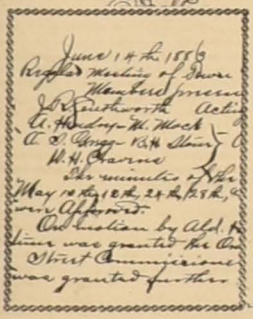

June 14th 1880
Regular Meeting of Town
Members present
J. Southworth Actin
C. Hindsley W. Mock
A. D. Gregg C.H. Stein
W.H. Harris
The minutes of the
May 10th 1880, 24th & 25th
were Approved.
Ordinance by Ald. H
Stein was granted the Or
Street Commissioner
was granted further

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FLASH BACK

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FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 1883-87

peter harkins

The author discovered the Fayetteville City Council Minutes book for 1883-87 in the basement of the old McIlroy Bank Building while doing research for a book on McIlroy Bank history in 1971. The 8 x 12 inch ledger was probably there because Clint Davenport, the Bank's Cashier during the period was also City Treasurer. (Mr. Davenport's daughter, Miss Kate, still lives in the home he built at the corner of Spring and College, Fayetteville.) A good deal of the record is in Mr. Davenport's handwriting, when he acted as Recorder for the body. This was really ink and paper, too for the writing is just as legible and the paper as supple (albeit slightly brown) as the day Mr. Davenport bought them at Stone & Albright's store on the NE corner of the square, 90 odd years ago.

This store, survivor of the Confederate incendiaries who put the square to the torch in the Civil War, will soon be bull-dozed into extinction by the urban renewers. The McIlroy Bank Building, second oldest on the square is in the process of being torn down as we write this. The old bank building opened its doors in Nov.,1872 as the counting rooms of Denton D. Stark, Banker and Broker and evolved into today's McIlroy Bank. As we were sneezing our way through the dusty old records piled helter-skelter amongst the janitorial supplies, the janitor murmured something about, "It you think this stuff is something, you should have seen the pile of old books they chucked out of here a few years back." What books? "oh, some dirty ol' books that'd been layin' around down here for years, takin' up room."...etc., etc., Yes, it seems they just kept crowding those old records farther and farther into the dark corners until finally they needed even the dark corners for something newer. So, out the back door went about a half ton of records covering Fayetteville's early financial history.

Our browsing wasn't a total loss, however, In addition to the Council Minutes we also turned up Minutes of the City Water Department for the year 1912. We will pass those on in a later issue of our Flashback. In the original old bank vault, long since superseded by a larger steel one, we found about 35 black tin boxes which had been used as safety deposit boxes from the 80's until about WW1. They had lain there unclaimed for up to ninety years or so. We received permission to go through them and pry open those that were

locked. Sorry, folks. No $20 gold pieces. Nary a one. But there were countless old fire insurance policies, pressed flowers, ancient post cards, envelopes with the corner stamps sawed off and an intriguing lot of old correspondence. One packet of letters had been written by a jilted suitor, asking and asking and asking his ex-honey to send back the engagement ring.

Most intriguing find of all was a beautifully preserved pass to the impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson in 1868. This we found in the box which had once belonged to a gentleman by the name of Andrew DeVaney. Crumbled letters showed that he was a Confederate veteran and one of the letters was addressed to his daughter, Hallie, who was evidently a student at the University in 1910. Mr. DeVaney's letter implored his daughter to write her mother more often (Times DON'T change, do they?) Since the letter was dated 1910 I thought it possible some older Fayetteville resident might possibly remember these people. Pretty remote chance, of course, but-

Well, you guessed it. And I have a member to prove it. The very first person I saw as I walked out the bank door that day was Mr. John Alvis Reed, member of one of Fayetteville's oldest families and a good WCHS member. "Mr. Reed," says I, "would you, by any chance ever have heard of some folks by the name of DeVaney around here?" "Sure, I went to School with Hallie DeVaney in 1910." said Mr. Reed, supplying her first name without prompting. "She was from Ft. Smith. Married Andrew Hamilton here in town. He was in the apple drying business down at the corner of Church and Center Streets".

And that, beside the City Minutes Book, is the most intriguing find unearthed in the old vault. One thought occurs to me as the last minutes tick away for the old bank building. How do you throw a five-ton vault away? They never could find any place to dispose of the original bank safe that preceded the vault. It still survives in a warehouse at West and Scott Sts. in Fayetteville, the name Denton D. Stark, Banker surrounded by blue forget-me-nots stenciled above its foot-thick door.

But so much for historical chit-chat.

As for the minutes of the Fayetteville City Council meetings from April 11, 1883 to December 12, 1887, we can report no startling, historic discoveries whatever. Most of the stuff is as dry as the dust in which it lay for all those years. Depending on your turn of mind, you can conclude that:

1.The more things change, the more they remain the same.

2.Times certainly do change.

Personally, I couldn't find much moral in any of it. There seemed to be a lot of shuttling in and out of their posts by mayors and council members, but maybe the telescoped record just made it seem more frequent than happens today. There was a little hanky-panky with public funds here and there, but it was mostly nickle and dime stuff and the result of sloppy records rather than malfeasance. The problems of past mayors and councilmen involved budgets,angry petitioners, city streets and too little money, even as suffered by their counterparts today. So, while not earth-shaking, the book does help pin down street widenings and extensions plus other minutiae of interest to only the most avid history buff - meaning, any of us.

Early in the Book, in the minutes for April 26th, 1883 we find the following bit of street history, for example:

"Report from the Street Committee was read as follows: We have proposed to purchase from Isaac Taylor, fifteen rods of land by paying him $37.50 in city script (sic) therefor. Said land being for extension of Gregg St. Which St. is to be of uniform width of two rods"

Fayetteville was evidently going through a period of rapid expansion during this decade for we find these pages sprinkled with official evidence of same. Later in the minutes for the same date:

"On the motion of alderman Stone (B.H.Stone, a forebear of world-famous Fayetteville architect, Edward D. Stone), the street Committee was instructed to inquire of the property holders along Dixon (sic) St. what amount they would require for making said St. of uniform width of 40 Ft."

In the minutes for April 30th it is noted that:

"City Marshall A.B. Kell's resignation has been tabled."

And in the next paragraph, reason for the resignation is indicated by:

"It was moved and seconded that the finance committee be instructed to wait upon the citizens with the object of raising a subscription of $18 per month in currency toward the Marshall's salary for the year 1883. Motion carried."

Same day's minutes, a distinctive sign of the times:

"Resolved, that the citizens be granted the privilege of paying to the city treasurer, Five dollars in currency in lieu of ten days work on the streets for the year 1883."

That's right, folks. In the 80's you paid your money or you showed up with your shovel,bright and early on Saturday morning, ready to help keep Fayetteville's winding-dirt streets open. There was a street committee but they furnished only a few pieces of rudimentary equipment such as horse-drawn scrapers and the like. The

able-bodied of the town did the toting. And this went on until well after World War 1.(See picture,centerfold). Incidentally, in these same minutes, Gregg St. is described as being extended to Mt. Comfort or Elm Springs Rd. Gregg St. goes to Maple street which we have never before heard described as Mt. Comfort or Elm Springs Rd. But since the street leads to both places eventually, perhaps that is what it was called in the 80's.

In the May 16th, 1883 minutes we find an interesting denouement to the insertion concerning Marshall Kell's resignation and the motion to ask Fayettevillians to donate $18 a month toward the Marshall's salary:

Marshal *A.B.Kell refused to accept the additional $11.25 (all that Fayetteville folks subscribed, presumably)* and alderman A. *B. Cravens moved that the resignation of Mr. Kell be accepted.*

On May 28th the new City Marshall is asked to notify Dixon (still) St. property owners be asked to appear at the next council meeting for the purpose of arranging for widening of the street.

On June 2nd, 1883, it is noted in the minutes that only two of those property owners bothered to show up. The Marshall was instructed to ask 'em again. Further on in the same minutes we found further evidence of an improving town:

"The School Board..requests the council to declare Mountain Ave. a street and put the same in repair sufficient for wagons to haul over for the erection of the public school building."

At the same meeting the council received a petition from residents on Spring St. asking that the city fathers adopt their road as a city street and do something about the fences sticking out in the road all along the way. In this session the city dads passed an ordinance banning public drunkeness.

In their July 12th session the council passed a puzzling ordinance barring *'the running of engines by steam'* on the public square and at the same time barred the feeding of horses there as well.

Money was a problem then (then, too?). But where now we have too much, then they had none. The effects of reconstruction plagued many towns in the south and so they were forced to print their own money. It was called scrip (spelled script most of the way through these records.) Scrip was good as payment in full for the payment of taxes and other such municipal debts. The city paid for services rendered it, in this scrip which could also be used as legal tender although it was usually discounted by the bargaining parties involved. Discount prices on city scrip were published regularly in all state newspapers. Discounts ran anywhere from 50% off in the early

years of reconstruction to a norm of between 20-25% when the towns became more solvent. In the June 25th minutes it is written:

"Resolution... That all town script (sic) of the town of Fayetteville be, and the same is hereby called in for re-issue and cancellation."

And on August 9, 1883 the Minutes note that:

"Treasurer C. Davenport turned over to the council 241 pieces of town warrants in amount $2,168.06. These warrants having been registered and then compared with the register, the council proceeded to burn, and continued till the whole was destroyed."

The next few pages are taken up with the list of warrants, their numbers and persons to whom issued with the date of issue. Calling in of scrip was done periodically, presumably to prevent counterfeiting and see where they were, lost-scrip-wise, perhaps. The scrip registration and burning was just about as technical as city council business ever got. 98% of the Council agendas were usually filled up with matters such as:

September 13, 1883: *"Resolved that Reuben Carter's sausage factory is a nuisance and the Marshall is ordered to abate same."*

September 27th, *"Order payment to George Albright for repair to Court House cistern. Hire an inspector of flues. Arrange a census of town."*

October 25th, *"Bill for construction of Pest House used during Small Pox epidemic (in 1882) received and ordered paid."*

November 22nd, *"Moved and seconded that the Marshal be instructed to notify Mulholland and White to raise their telephone wire which crosses the public square so it will not obstruct or interfere with the passage of a buss (sic) or other vehicle."* Meaning of course, that we had changed from a one-horse to a one-telephone town and that WAS progress.

December 13th, *"Ordinance sets up 3 city voting wards".*

And so did 1883 pass into history...so far as the city council was concerned.

January, 10th, 1884, *"Moved that Mr. S.B. Robertson of Bentonville prepare a map or 'plat' of the town on vellum or ten maps on paper cloth for $150. Petition from citizens asking that town's fire department be properly equipped and stating that if the councilmen would appropriate money for same, the old equipment could be sold to the town of Springdale. It was voted that $600 be appropriated for same."*

At the same meeting it was noted that alderman Cravens had been *fined $1 for failure to attend council meetings and Marshal was instructed to collect same.*

On March 17th, the council *voted to rent the J.L. Duke home for the use of the council.* (This does not refer to the spacious home on College Ave. Mr. Duke did not buy this home until 1888). In any event, the council meetings were not held in the courthouse as we had presumed, until we came across this information. Later records show they paid $60 a year for use of the Duke house.

On April 10, 1884, L.E. Marrs replaces C.W.Walker as Fayetteville mayor following elections the preceding week.

June 23rd, City Board of Health created.

July 8th, *six mill property tax is invoked to pay interest on city 'college bonds'.* (The town had committed itself to bonded indebtedness in order to lure the A.I.U. to the area) The meeting attended by Col. Edgar, president of the college, who asked the council to please do some grading on Dickson street leading to school since students would soon be arriving for fall semester.

August 11th, *Ordinance passed to build plank walk on North side of Dickson St. from College Ave. to campus of A.I.U., 3 ft wide and property owners were assessed 75 cents a front foot to finance same.*

October 7th, *Improvements to Block and East Sts. ordered.*

October 13th, *Block and Spring street property lines finally straightened out, recorded and fences moved.*

November 5th, City Marshal Pettigrew resigns.

Former Marshal, A.B.Kell returns

From here on, the council minutes lapse into reiterative accountings of municipal affairs of the most mundane kind.

January 27th, 1885. *"Leas butcher shop flue is declared a nuisance and marshal is ordered to demand abatement."*

"Stone and Albright bill of $3 for repair of fire bell at SE corner of courthouse grounds ordered paid."

April 7th, 1885. (Wayman C. Jackson takes over as mayor).

April 27th, *"$300 appropriated to build town calaboose."*

May 25th: *Finance committee recommended that the account of Marshal Taylor* (still another marshal) *for expense incurred in putting up street lamps, oil etc. amounting to $10...be paid."* (This probably referred to the four oil lamps at the four corners of the courthouse grounds in the center of the square. Whether the "putting up" of the street lamps referred to their original installation or merely referred to maintenance, the record doesn't make clear.)

August 10th. *Bill for removal of dead hogs by marshal paid.*

T.J. Taylor dismissed as street commissioner and financial reckoning demanded.

August 24th. Estimate of cost of building stockade around calaboose submitted.

September 14th. *Payment made to marshal of $2.50 for collecting dead hogs and killing loose dogs. Feeding calaboose prisoners, $2.50. Ordinance against male hogs running loose in town.*

November 9th. *Bill for street work, $36.*

December 14th. Messers Wm. McIlroy and G.W.M. Reed requested to sell pieces of their land so street might be opened between Dickson and Evergreen Cemetery.

December 28th, 1885. City Marshal directed *"to take possession of the brass instruments belonging to the city and now in the possession of divers parties and turn them over to Director J.R. Southworth...."*(The instruments had been presented to the city by Federal Forces who had occupied the town during the late war.The instruments had been used by the unit's 'cornet band' which had entertained the town folk both during the war and the occupation which followed.)

May 24th, 1886, Eight *of said instruments turned over to the city;*

Petition presented to open Lafayette St. from Highland to College Ave.

June 28th, *Ordinance passed forbid ANY swine running loose in city.*

July 12th. *A petition of citizens asking the council to repeal the ordinance preventing swine from running at large within the corporate limits was read and ignored.* (Yes, that's what it said.)

Sept. 13th. Lafayette St. extension to College opened.

October 25th - Board walk on West side of square declared nuisance.

November and December about like that.And so ended 1886.

February 14, 1887. *A petition from Leon Smith and others asking the council to grant them permission to use the old instruments belonging to the city for the purpose of organizing a 'kids' band, was read and referred to finance committee. (And that is the last we hear of the 'city instruments' in these or any other records. Does anyone know where those old horns ever got to?)*

April 11th, 1887, *Ordinance to let butchers stay open on Sunday. Property owners on Maple St. offer to donate land and build bridge across Frisco railroad cut, if town will declare it city street.*

"Marshal Gray was present and made statement in regard to

lewd women and asked council to draft an ordinance giving him jurisdiction over bawdy houses with one occupant."

June 13th, 1887, *"Alderman Van Winkle spoke in reference to electric lights, street railway and water works, that two companies 'are ready to come here if franchise would be granted for a street railway and encouragement given water works. Motion was made and carried to investigate the proposition of electric lights, etc."*

June 27th, 1887, Land purchased from George Albright to locate city rock crusher.

July 19th, 1887, *"The committee appointed in regard to water works, reported that the company had made a proposition to put in water works, stock not to exceed $50,000, if the city guarantees them compensation of $1800 per year. A committee is ordered formed to negotiate with the group."* (Negotiations were not referred to again in this volume of Minutes.)

July 25th, 1887: *"Alderman Lake moved that city Marshal H.S. Gray be ordered to report how many hogs had been impounded to date, disposition made of them and the proceeds of all sales.* (They sold the hog meat, I guess.)

August 8th, 1887: *Dr.* Wood *was present, representing the city Board of Health and tendered the resignation of the Board of Health."*

(The next insertion hinted at the cause of the resignations)

"Alderman Stone moved that the city Marshal shall immediately visit all privies inside the corporation and see that they are all clean and kept in accordance with the city ordinance and that other places of filth are immediately cleaned up and kept so in the future. Also, that he shall consider himself subject to the order of the Board of Health (hey, they just resigned, remember?) *and execute them in the same manner as if they came from the City Council."*

August 23rd: *"The raising of Dickson street depression at the crossing of College Ave. has raised the elevation at that point so great that loaded vehicles can be hauled over the grade only with difficulty and it is recommended the depression between College Ave. and East St. be filled in".*

(Member John Alvis Reed says *"It was as much as your life was worth to take the 'depot' bus down East St. back when I was in the University (1910). It was nothing but ruts and mud."*

October 10th: *"Street Commissioner Reynolds reported that he had measured the land bought of G.S.Albright by the city and failed to find the amount of land purchased. Suggested that same be surveyed and located by county surveyor.*

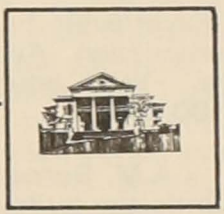
October 15th: *Flash! Town Marshal sued for impounding stray cow under city stock ordinance. Found guilty. City council votes money to appeal.*

November 29th, 1887: *Motion made to build a macadamized road to the Federal Cemetery.*

This is the next to last entry in the Minutes Book of the City Council for a very brief, undramatic span in the life of a town. We were reading at least the next to last gasps of such old American standbys as the all-weather road, outdoor privies, the family cow, livestock with pedestrian privileges, cisterns and pest houses. Those may have been the good old days, but nothing in these notes suggest that the folks involved, realized it at the time. So maybe these are the good old days. And you are there.

—WCHS—

THE ARKANSAS BUILDING



kirby estes

On March 10, 1902, F.W.J. Hart, architect, completed plans for the Arkansas building at the St. Louis World's Fair, and they were accepted by the Arkansas Commissioners. The Arkansas building, it was said, would be the first building under construction.

Mr. Hart's scheme was evidently laid aside, for on May 11, 1903, the Arkansas Gazette reported that the plans of Frank W. Gibb, architect for the Arkansas building at the World's Fair at St. Louis, were accepted by the Arkansas World's Fair Commission.

The Exposition handbook described the structure as follows: "Fronting two of the prominent boulevards on the Plateau of States is the pretentious Arkansas Building, representative of the varied resources of a single commonwealth. All of the material used in the construction is a product of the state, and in its furnishings is to be found one of the finest displays of woods at the Exposition. This building covers a space 150 feet square and is surrounded by a broad veranda where tired visitors seek rest after their sightseeing, and enjoy the beauty of the gardens. Two imposing entrances of the dignified Colonial type provide access to the spacious reception halls on the main floor. Native hardwoods are displayed in the stained oak floor which is profusely ornamented with inlaid work. The walls of the reception hall are tinted in empire green with a frieze border three feet deep. Against bits of

clouds and sky, boughs of apple blossoms, the state's floral emblem, are painted. Most attractive of the splendid furnishings is a marble mantlepiece of Eureka Springs onyx. Into the structure went at least one board of every tree growing in the state, topped off by a slate roof of inestimable proportions."

The building was photographed by J. H. Field, who titled it "A Southern Dream." The picture was syndicated and appeared in all of the larger papers of the country, heralded as a symbol of Southern taste, refinement and Arkansas spirit. The picture won a national award for Field.

As the close of the Exposition neared, the commission responsible for housing the Arkansas exhibits was confronted with disposing of the building. At the persistent advice of George Lake a Fayetteville hardware merchant and member of the World's Fair Commission, Artemus Floyd Wolf submitted a bid for the structure. Wolf bought himself a fine home that originally cost over $100,000.

A.M. Byrnes, a contractor and builder, was employed to dismantle the building and reconstruct it on Mount Nord. Each piece was numbered for reassembly. It required eight freight cars to transport the material from St. Louis to Fayetteville.

The Fort Smith News Record of September 19, 1905 reported: "The opening of the Arkansas Building last Tuesday marked an epoch in social life of this classic city. Several hundred of Fayetteville's most cultured citizens were in attendance. The occasion was the crowning social function of the season.

"When the Arkansas Building occupied its place on the World's Fair ground in the city of St. Louis, it was a source of pride to every native of the state it represented, for it was the most impressive in the large group of state edifices. But since by the genious (sic) and enterprise of A.F. Wolf it has been transferred from the Mound City of Missouri to the Crescent City of Arkansas, it presents an even more commanding appearance. Crowning as it does the crest of beautiful Mount Nord, a more bewitching prospect can not be found in any part of the great Southwest.

"Standing on the great broad verandas with their huge colonial columns, one is offered a charming view of the vast stretches of hill and valley which greet the eye on every hand.

"The night of the grand opening the building presented the aspect of a palace. Mr. Wolf has converted it into one of the most elegant and spacious residences to be found outside of a metropolitan city. It is magnificently furnished and has all the modern equipment. The dining room and the library are both as beautiful as a midsummer night's dream. The gilded parlors, with their costly brocaded draperies from Paris and Berlin, are elegant enough to be the reception rooms of kings and queens.

"The great assembly hall on the upper floor, reached by stairs of ornate grandeur, was filled with guests who listened to the rendition of a charming program, prepared and executed under the auspices of the choir of the Central Methodist Church of this citv. It included some of the best talent of this and other cities.

"Mr. Wolf came to this city from Paris, Ark., where he was born and reared on a farm. He is a graduate of the state University and is a young man, barely in his thirtieth year. A few years ago, he was teaching a small country school as a means of livelihood. Today as a result of his genious for business he is rated to be worth in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand dollars. He is a young man of unblemished character, a perfect gentleman in his bearing, benevolent in his gifts, an official in one of the city's churches, and the sympathizer of every good word and work."

After Wolf's death in 1910, the house remained the property of the family but served as a chapter house for various fraternities and sororities.

In 1935 the Wolf family found the structure too formidable to maintain and offered a 30-day option to purchase the residence for $10,000--one-tenth of its original value. The "Save the Arkansas Building" Society was hastily organized with Lessie S. Read, editor of the Fayetteville Democrat and a member of the State Centennial Commission, as its general chairman. Immediate plans were to house the Northwest Arkansas State Centennial exhibit in the structure and hopefully transform the building into a permanent Product Show of Arkansas' industries and arts.

After describing the significance of the magnificent structure in the editorial appearing in a June 1935 issue of the Fayetteville Democrat, the following plea was made:

"Fate of the building now lies in the balance.
"It rests in your hands, and mine.

"Shall the building of priceless traditions be condemned and pulled down for kindling wood or cottages, or shall it be restored to its original beauty and made a publicly endowed monument of Arkansas enterprise for all time?

"Shall it once more draw to us thousands of admiring summer visitor, who used to be considered the city's greatest commercial asset, and become a community house in which to entertain conventions and peoples of note, or shall it disappear from our community and be just one more glory sacrificed by a people without pride or appreciation?

"These things are for you and me to decide.

"Are there enough native or adopted Arkansans in the world to perpetuate this beautiful structure?

"Its present owners hold a clear title and it can be had at the lowest figure ever set as its sale price.

"If you live in Arkansas now, if you ever lived in Arkansas. especially if you ever lived in Fayetteville and have a spark of pride in your state, speak up now.

"A 30-day option can be had on the building. It will take $10,000 to buy it and its site and donate this to the city, county or state for a public works program for perpetual preservation, as Senator Joe T. Robinson recently suggested.

"The first goal as a Centennial gift to all our people should be this $10,000 that must be had within 30 days. After this building is bought, how and for what it shall be preserved and maintained can be decided upon.

"There are several ways of making it serve all the people.

"Ten thousand of Arkansas's million and half people at a dollar a head can save the situation. Ten thousand of Washington county's 35,000 people can do the same thing. Ten thousand people of Fayetteville and vicinity alone can turn the trick if they so desire. If the site can be donated, the improvement can become a state P.W.A. project.

"This is an appeal to every citizen, to every native son and daughter, to every single alumnus the University has ever known.

"Will you not send your dollar NOW to save the Arkansas Building" Society, care of the Fayetteville Daily Democrat. If the plan does not go through, your dollar will be returned. If it does go through your name for all time will be inscribed under the slate roof (and we hope soon to be made permanent and fireproof structure) of Arkansas's best and most beautiful and most lovely monument, to grace its present peerless site so long as any of us shall live."

A wrecking crew began razing the building in the late 1930's.

THE BUTTERFIELD RUN

phillip steele

A brass plaque on the front of the Washington County Court House marks the approximate spot used as a depot by the short-lived Butterfield Stage Line, the St. Louis to San Francisco stage line which existed for but three short years in the history of the country and died, like so many things, as a result of the War Between The States. One of the most complete accounts of the Butterfield Stage story is told in a little brown pamphlet published in 1966 by Phillip Steele of Springdale. We include here only those portions of the story which are concerned with the stage route through Arkansas. Those interested in the whole story may obtain copies of the pamphlet at minimal cost from the author, care of this publication.

As western population (in the 1850's) expanded, demands for faster mail service and safer passenger services from the East to the West grew. Senator William M. Gwinn of California and Congressman John S. Phelps of Missouri introduced a bill that was to establish the first East and West mail and passenger service. The bill was passed on March 3, 1857 and authorized the Postmaster General to issue a cross-country mail carrying contract. The bill left the selection of the contractor and the route to the Post Master General, carefully avoiding the controversial route decision. There was much dissension in congress and among the nation's citizens as to the route of this initial cross country mail service. Most felt that this initial route would mark the eventual route of a cross-country railroad.

The bill stated that the service must be performed in 25 days each way and must begin within 12 months after the contract was awarded.

The service got one false start with the award of a temporary contract to one Jim Birch who used mules on the route, causing it to be dubbed 'The Jack-ass Line'. He went by way of San Antonio and San Diego and required 38 days to make the trip. Despite the poor record Birch thought he would get the contract, but when the nine bids were opened, the contract had been awarded to John Butterfield, an intimate friend of President James Buchanan. (This fact and the selection of the southern route by the Tennessee Post Master General got the service launched in a storm of controversy)

John Butterfield was born in Berne, New York in 1901 and while still a young man, secured control of most of the freight lines in Northern and Western New York. In anticipation of receiving the contract, he and his associates organized the Overland Mail Company, a joint stock company with a capital of $2,000,000, and established their main offices in New York City.

Survey crews went out immediately to mark the 2,800 mile route, to purchase land for stations, and mark locations for river and mountain crossings. After the survey was completed, construction gangs moved out from each end to improve the road, construct stage stations and dig wells. A total of 141 stations were built by the time service began, twelve months after receiving the contract.

In addition to construction the firm purchased 1,200 horses and 600 mules. They branded each OM, shod them, and distributed them to the 141 stations. Hay, grain and water were distributed to the stations. Superintendents, conductors, drivers, station masters, veterinarians, blacksmiths, wranglers and over 1,000 men had to be hired and trained. Specifications were drawn and orders were placed for over 250 regular coaches, special mailwagons, freight wagons, and water tank wagons.

The coaches were painted either red or green and the running gear was a bright yellow. The Butterfield Coaches were inscribed with the O.M.C. insignia on the doors of the coach. The colorful coach weighed 3,000 pounds and had a load capacity of 4,000 pounds. It carried six to nine passengers inside and an unlimited number on top. The coach body swung on leather straps, which were constructed of many layers of the thickest steer hid, called thorough braces.

Celerity Wagons or "mud wagons" were also purchased for use on the rougher sections of the route.

The first scheduled stop in Arkansas was Callahan's tavern operated by Dennis Callahan. The Callahan station and tavern was located within the city limits of the present Rogers, Arkansas. Rogers was not to come into existence until some 23 years later. From Callahan's the route ran due south through Cross Hollows, Mudtown and then on to John Fitzgerald's station at Shiloh.

Shiloh's name was later to be changed to Springdale with the establishment of the first permanent post office in 1875. It should also be noted that one of the Butterfield stage stops still is standing in Springdale. The original Fitzgerald station stable,built of native Ozark stone can be seen on the Old Missouri road, north-

east of the city. The Gladden Hotel, a favorite among Butterfield pasengers in the old days because of its food, fell to the bulldozers and urban renewal in 1972. Some will remember the old hotel with its wide veranda located behind the old Springdale Library Building, Elkhorn Tavern was not a regular stop but did serve occasionally in bad weather.

The Butterfield Stage continued on from Shiloh twelve miles to Fayetteville on the "old wire" or "Missouri" road. Fayetteville was to become an important station on the Butterfield route. The reporter on the initial run, wrote in his paper, "Fayetteville is located up among the hills in a most inaccessible spot. It has two churches, the county court house, a number of fine stores and dwellings, and about 1,800 inhabitants. It is a flourishing little town and its lack of a good hotel, I understand, will be supplied by Ma Butterfield, who has bought some property for this purpose."

Butterfield did build a hotel, a station and large barns on land now occupied by the Ozark Theatre and court house. John Butterfield's oldest son was the station agent at Fayetteville. John Butterfield loved the Ozarks and Fayetteville. He often visited the Ozark portion of the route and frequently entertained his eastern friends in Fayetteville. He regarded the region as "the most beautiful and healthful along the route." John Butterfield owned 360 acres of land in what is now the western part of the city.

From Fayetteville, the route took a southwesterly direction through Cato Springs and Hog Eye. A tavern operated by a widow at Hog Eye, was a popular stop as the widow specialized in good food and corn liquor that was served from large earthenware jugs. The route continued on to Strickler, now known as Fall Creek and from there, down a crooked, narrow road for 10 miles to the Lee's Creek crossing. The stage then climbed to the Signal Hill station which is one of the highest points in the Ozarks and is located a few miles west of the present Winslow. The original Signal Hill log station is still standing and is located on the farm owned by Mrs. C.C. Collier.

Down Signal Hill, the route went on to Van Buren where the stage crossed the Arkansas River on a flat boat until 1860, when a ferry was provided. The crossing of the river was most difficult as a result of the alluvial flat lands on the Ft. Smith side of the river.

Ft. Smith was a division center, distribution point and junction point of the south-bound coaches and Memphis coaches. A large agency was maintained here. The stables regularly contained

from 50 to 100 horses and mules and extra coaches were shipped from the East by steamboat to Ft. Smith. Ft. Smith had 2,500 inhabitants in 1858 and its fort was garrisoned by U.S. Troops. From Ft. Smith, the route crossed the Poteau River, then angled across Indian Territory and on to San Francisco by way of El Paso, Tucson, and Los Angeles.

The first Overland Mail Coach arrived in San Francisco at 7:30 a.m. on October 10,1858, only 23 days and 23 hours after leaving the Tipton, Missouri train station. An East-bound stage had left San Francisco at 12:10 a.m. on September 15 and arrived in Springfield, Missouri at 3:00 p.m. on October 8, 24 days out of San-Francisco. John Butterfield had accomplished the impossible task of uniting the East and West for the first time in less than 25 days.

Over the next two and one half years, the Overland Mail Company grew rapidly and as business grew, more coaches and equipment had to be added. During this period, however, national unrest grew over the use of the southern route. The last East-bound stage left San Francisco on March 6, 1861, arriving at California, Missouri, a temporary coach terminal, on March 21st. The last mail from the East arrived in San Francisco in early April of 1861.

—WCHS—

RIDGE HOUSE ARCHEOLOGY

patrick martin

During the week of March 13-19, 1972, a crew of student volunteers and staff members from the Coordinating Office of the Arkansas Archeological Survey conducted a series of test excavations at the Ridge House, Center Street, Fayetteville, Arkansas. This structure is believed to have been the home of Mrs. Sarah B.N. Ridge, wife of the famous Cherokee leader, John Ridge, who was assassinated near Fayetteville in June of 1838. Mrs. Ridge moved to Fayetteville after her husband's death, and documentary evidence points to this house on Center Street as her residence. Archeological investigation was requested by the Washington County Historical Society, which recently acquired the property for purposes of preservation and possible future restoration. The primary objectives of this work were (1) to obtain evidence bearing on the nature of the

original structure and the sequence of additions made thereafter, (2) to locate and identify any outbuildings or other features associated with the structure, and (3) to obtain a collection of artifactual material which might reflect something of the lifestyle of the inhabitants of the house to help guide future restoration efforts.

The initial series of test excavations exposed several features of interest as well as a fairly large quantity of artifacts. Consequently, work was continued on an occasional basis during the early weeks of the summer, labor both in the field and in the laboratory being provided by volunteers from the University of Arkansas and the Washington County Historical Society. In addition, the Washington County Historical Society also generously provided the author with financial assistance to aid in the work and the preparation of this report.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In order to put the archeological investigation in proper perspective, a brief summary of the historical background of the site is necessary. The documentary research on the Ridge House was carried out by members of the Washington County Historical Society, primarily Mrs. Pat Donat.

In 1840, Mrs. Sarah B.N. Ridge purchased a block of lots in Fayetteville from Joseph M. Sheppard, including the lot presently under examination. Prior to Sheppard, the property had been the residence of M. H. Clark, who purchased it sometime before 1837. Mrs. Ridge resided in Fayetteville until about 1844, when she moved to Osage Prairie, Arkansas. Returning to Fayetteville in 1854, Mrs. Ridge wrote to her sister Eliza complaining of the wretched state of repair her "old House" was in. The house and lot were sold by members of the family in 1860.

During the later years of the nineteenth century, the house was occupied by another prominent citizen of Fayetteville, Z.M. Pettigrew, who died there in 1900. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, as well as the past few years, the house was used as a boarding house.

EXCAVATION

In order to explore the structural details of the original building and subsequent additions to it, three excavation units were staked out along the west wall of the building. Unit One, measuring 5' X 10', was begun at the southwest corner of the house and extended along the west wall to the northern edge of the stone chimney base (see map). A ditch some three feet deep, containing an iron or steel gas or water line was located at the west edge of the unit, running north and south. In the southwest corner of the unit, a brick walk was noted, and the base of the stone chimney was exposed.

Unit Two, also measuring 5' x 10', extended an additional ten feet northward along the west wall. Besides the gas or water line noted in Unit One, a shallow ditch containing clay drain tiles was located extending out from under the structure toward the

The purpose of placing these initial units of excavation in this area was to expose the foundation of the building and to examine the construction. The soil was removed carefully with mason's trowels and artifacts recovered were labelled according to their location. It was found that the foundation of the earliest portion of the building, the log structure measuring approximately 16' along the west wall, was of roughly squared sandstone blocks laid in dry courses on the old ground surface. No evidence was encountered which would indicate that a construction ditch was dug in which to lay these foundation stones. The footing for the sandstone chimney extends one foot below the present ground surface, a relatively insubstantial foundation for such a large structure.

After examining this foundation along the west wall, a series of trenches was laid out to the rear of the house, in an attempt to locate outbuildings and a well reported to have been there by a former occupant of the house. The locations of all excavation units were mapped with a Brunton compass from a centrally located datum stake. These trenches were numbered Units Four through Thirteen (see map), and were placed in areas where surface indications such as depressions and concentrations of broken pottery and glass suggested the possibility of subsurface features. The topsoil in all of these units was trowelled down to the level of the subsoil and any subsurface features were mapped and excavated as separate units.

Excavation of Unit Four exposed three features, two of which were the bottoms of square post molds, six inches across, containing no artifacts. The third feature was a shallow pit containing four bricks and two large stones, lying together at the bottom of the pit. This arrangement suggests a base for a piling or perhaps a footing for some sort of post, but the evidence is too scanty to say anything conclusive.

Units Five, Six, Eight, Ten, Twelve and Thirteen were unproductive as far as features. Unit Seven, on the other hand, almost immediately revealed a large concentration of artifactual material. This unit was expanded during the summer in order to more fully expose the feature and recover the artifacts with in it. This feature appears to have been a root cellar, measuring 9' x 13' and 5' deep, with a stairway 4' long and 3½' wide sloping down into the cellar from the south. Evidence indicates that the cellar had a wooden floor and wooden steps leading in. This cellar apparently outlived its usefulness and was filled with trash and cinders from the house over a period of years. The artifacts recovered from this deposit of trash primarily date from the period just prior to the turn of the century, the time when the house was owned by the Pettigrew family. Interestingly, there was a great quantity of patent medicine bottles included in the fill, some of which originally contained popular medicines of the day. One of these, Dr. King's New Discovery, was advertised in the Fayetteville Weekly as a new remedy for coughs, colds, or any lung or chest trouble. In the same edition of this newspaper, a social notice was included which stated that Uncle Zeb Pettigrew was convalescing from a three-week illness. Several empty bottles which once contained Dr. King's New Discovery were found in the fill of the root cellar, and may have represented part of Uncle Zeb's cure.

At any rate, at the very bottom of the root cellar, in what was likely the first bit of trash dumped into the pit, a fragment of a very small pitcher was located which bore a painting of Old Main and the legend "University of Arkansas." This artifact's presence indicates that this earliest filling of the root cellar must postdate the con-

struction of Old Main in 1871. In the upper layers of the fill, a 1902 dime was located, which helps establish the end date for the fill. Also, none of the bottles excavated from this deposit exhibit the characteristic mold marks of an automatic bottle-making process introduced in 1903, a significant absence. Thus it is safe to say that this pit was filled during the period 1871-1902.

Unit Nine, located just north of Unit Seven, exposed another very interesting feature. This was an irregularly shaped pit approximately 5' across, and extending down about 18" into the subsoil, containing a wide variety of mid-nineteenth century artifacts. This pit may have been a shallow privy, or may have been dug as a trash pit. The artifacts include a patent medicine bottle which exhibits the pontil mark characteristic of bottles made before about 1850, and 1853 half-dime, numerous buttons of hard rubber, manufactured and popular in the 1850's, a bone-handled knife, and other artifacts stylistically attributable to the 1850's. Thus it is possible that this particular deposit of domestic trash could date to the period in which Sarah Ridge occupied the house.

Also of interest are three post molds seen in Units Seven, Nine and Eleven, arranged in an alignment parallel to the long axis of the lot. These post molds likely represent a part of the fence that extended through this area at some time in the past. Additionally a portion of a limestone foundation was located on the surface in the northeast corner of the lot. This foundation is made up of a single course of slabs laid up without mortar and represents the remains of a fairly insubstantial building.

CONCLUSIONS

In terms of the stated objectives of this field work, several conclusions may be drawn. Based upon the archeological work done to date and some preliminary examination of the house by Jack Straight, an architect, during the period of excavation, the earliest remaining portion of the Ridge House is still retained in the two front rooms. These rooms are the remnants of a two-room dogtrot house, built of hand-hewn logs. The old breezeway is now a central hall. This log building was set on a foundation of sandstone blocks laid in dry courses directly on the ground surface. A sandstone fireplace and chimney was built on each end of the building, though these chimneys may have been replaced over the years. The later additions to the rear of the house were apparently built on even less substantial a foundation than the front portion, as examination under the house revealed only irregularly placed stone blocks beneath the additions.

The root cellar, limestone foundation, and row of posts in the back yard offer some evidence as to further structures in that area. The root cellar was an essential feature of the nineteenth century household, providing a cool, dry place for the storage of food. This root cellar was likely made obsolete by the acquisition of an ice box shortly after the turn of the century.

Extensive collections of artifacts were recovered, indicative of the lifestyles of the inhabitants of the house. The trash which filled the root cellar can be seen as the leavings of the Pettigrew family and the occupants of the turn-of-the-century boarding house. Made up of food remains, such as bones and eggshells, glass containers which held pickles, liquor, ink, stove black, and patent medicines, bumpers from an old Ford car, cast iron stove parts, ironstone china pitchers, washbasins, plates and cups, glass kerosene lamp bases and chimneys, buttons, straight pins, and bone toothbrush handles, this deposit provides an intriguing picture of life in the late nineteenth century. The items recovered from the other trash pit, or privy, as the case may be, while not so numerous, also provide insights into the lives of the occupants of the house. Bone and hard rubber buttons, a bone comb, a bone-handled knive, fragments of pearlware pottery vessels, and patent medicine bottles, together with a quantity of food debris, shed a good deal of light on the furnishings of the house as well as the eating habits of the occupants during the middle years of the nineteenth century.

It remains for a more detailed and systematic analysis of the artifact collections to come to more specific conclusions about this site. Even so, it is clear from this cursory investigation that this house was being occupied during the years that Mrs. Ridge owned the lot and lived in Fayetteville, and it is therefore quite likely that many of these items, particularly those from the pit in Unit Nine, are from her household.

—WCHS—

CIRCUIT COURT RECORDS - 1880

Lloyd McConnell

A term of Circuit Court was held in and for Washington County, Arkansas on July 12, 1880, with the honorable Judge James H. Berry presiding. He ordered the clerk to read the list of persons selected for the grand jury and the clerk called the names of Jacob Wood, who was not found; James McCletchen, a good juror; Willis P. London, not served; George Hagood and John J. Vanhoose, good jurors; Hiram Brewster, not found; William Watson, good; a school director, Jacob White, excused; William Rutherford, good; Daniel H. Karnes and John Brown, school directors were also excused; Henry Carney, George W. Arnett, John Meredith and Col. Lake, good jurors; David Bridenthal, excused. From the alternates, the names of the following were announced: Arkansas Wilson, family sick; Samuel H. Peden, Gum Moore and Thomas T. Brown, good jurors; Arthur Evans, a school director, was excused. Robert M. Dickerson, James Greer, Maurice Coffey and Benjamin H. Stone completed the panel and were sworn in and received the official charge from the judge. Col. Lake was appointed foreman.

The petit jury panel was composed of citizens Alex W. Reed, Albert Byrnes, John Phillips, Warren Springston, William Strain, Robert Anderson, Benjamin Marion, Henry C. Pyeatt, D.W.C. Davenport and Preston Pyeatt. Alexander Henry, John Clark and J.C. Rogers were also used. From the alternates were called M.D. Lewis, John Cates, James Felton, W.F. Dowell and bystanders George Maguire, Peter Graham, Robert Braden, Everett Jackson, John Cox, John O' Brien and Nelson Norther completed the trial jury.

Excused from service on the panel were Thomas W. Epps, George Sanders, James Wilson, Charles Irvin, W.R. Holland, William H. Mayes, John Karnes, Kenneth Head and Joe Holcomb.

The first day of court had quite a docket. The court called the names of those charged with minor offenses and as each defendant came forward he was asked how he would plead. In many cases the answer simply was 'Guilty' to such crimes as disturbing religious worship, trespassing, carrying a pistol or fist fighting at somebody's pie supper. These cases were promptly disposed of with a fine of $l to $5 and costs.

Should a defendant interpose a plea of 'Not guilty', the judge consulted his calendar and set the trial for a day later in the week.

Major crimes were set down with a little more time for preparation of the case and consultation with an attorney. In this manner the docket was cleared of minor matters and the jury would be ready to get down to the serious business of trials.

Many cases were carried over to the first day of the next term, usually at the request of a prominent attorney, to have time to study his case, mostly to give the defendant time to arrange to pay the fine.

The state held charges against J.C. Dickerson for assault with a deadly thing; John Brown for wearing weapons. He was found not guilty. William Morton, wearing weapons, fine $25. George Reed and others, a riot; James Shannon, wearing pistols. Peter Mankins, assault and battery, fine $1 by the jury. Frank Willis, keeping a saloon; W.B. Collins, disturbing a religious congregation, fined $10.

Jobe Fletcher disturbed a religious congregation, they said. Alfred Brown, breach of peace on several occasions, fined $5, $20, $25, and $20. Quadrophonic fine, as it were.

Wash Waits started a riot, the jury decided and fined him $5 for such; then deciding that this constituted another fineable offense, breach of the peace, they tacked on an additional 45. Allen Waits, TWR(Tied-in-With-Riot, perhaps?) Wash's brother most likely and probable participant in the fracas, tagged for $10 also. Alfred Brown was convicted of gaming and it cost him $10 as well.

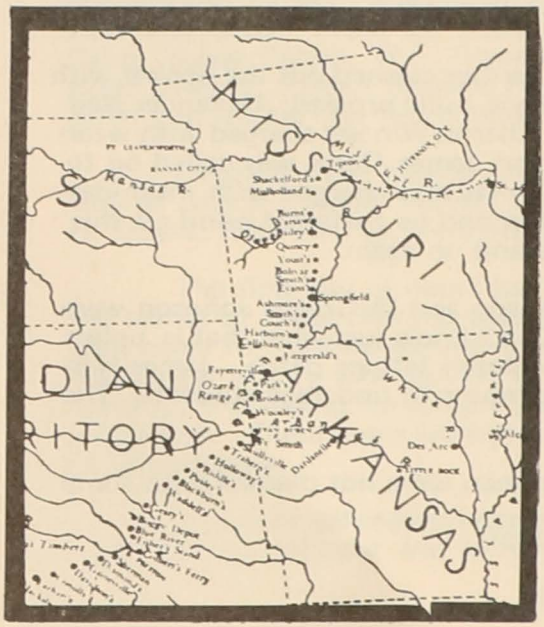
Lem Massey forfeited a $700 bond. James Moore was fined $5 for disturbance. Of what, the records don't say.

The second day of court further cleaned out the docket with Paris Green, continued; William Davis, nolle prossed; Alexander Nail fined $5 for assault and battery. Charles Winters charged with wearing weapons, failed to show up and James Oates was called on to make good the bond. Mr. Winters was also charged with intimidating a witness, which is agin the law and he forfeited bond on this as well. Mr. Oates was asked to stand up again.

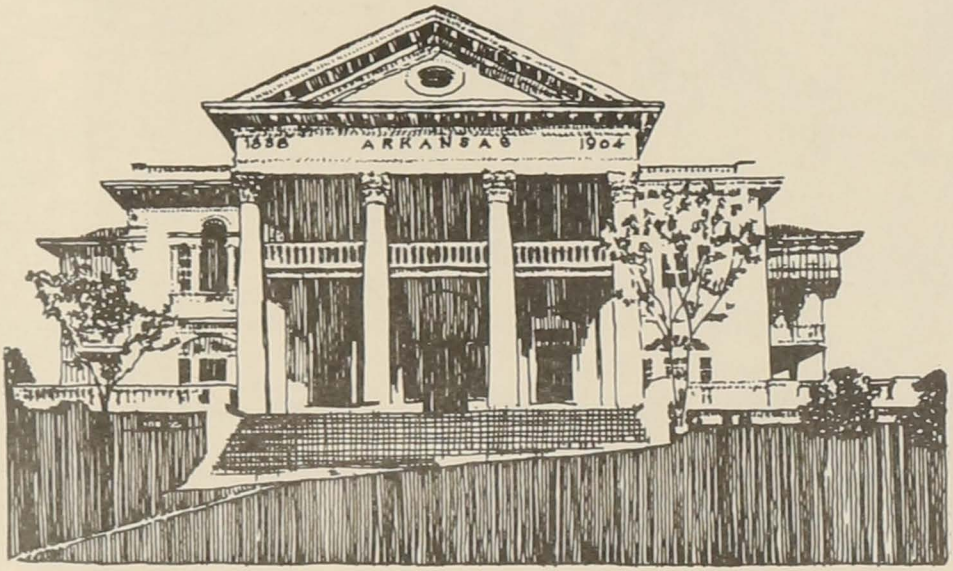
William Sanders, John Johnson and McGregor Johnson were charged with malicious trespass. Don't know just what that is unless it would be stomping down somebody's lettuce patch. James Harmon had several charges of selling liquor to underage students. The jury said $20 would compensate.

John Brooks and Fred Dorman were not pleased with some

"Capping of the Court House" just before the climactic moment on a misty Sunday morning this past August. The endangered tower had been removed some years ago and as one can see from the picture of the building in its early years, the steeple has been pretty faithfully reproduced. Only radical change in the structure has been removal of the front steps. The architectual plans for the building were recently discovered in a Fayetteville attic. The building, a reflection of the turn-of-the-century building style called Richardson Romanesque was drawn from the Allegheny County Court House of Pittsburgh the St. Louis Train Station and Trinity Church of Boston. The May, 1971 Flashback carries a complete story of the Court-House. (Picture Courtesy NW Ark. Times)



Map shows Missouri, Arkansas and Indian territory route of the Overland Mail, better known as the Butterfield Stage. Picture above is Signal Hill Station House, which still stands at C.C. Collier Farm near Winslow. Only other such station still remaining in NW Arkansas is the Fitzgerald Stables on the Old Wire Road near Springdale. (See Steele story)

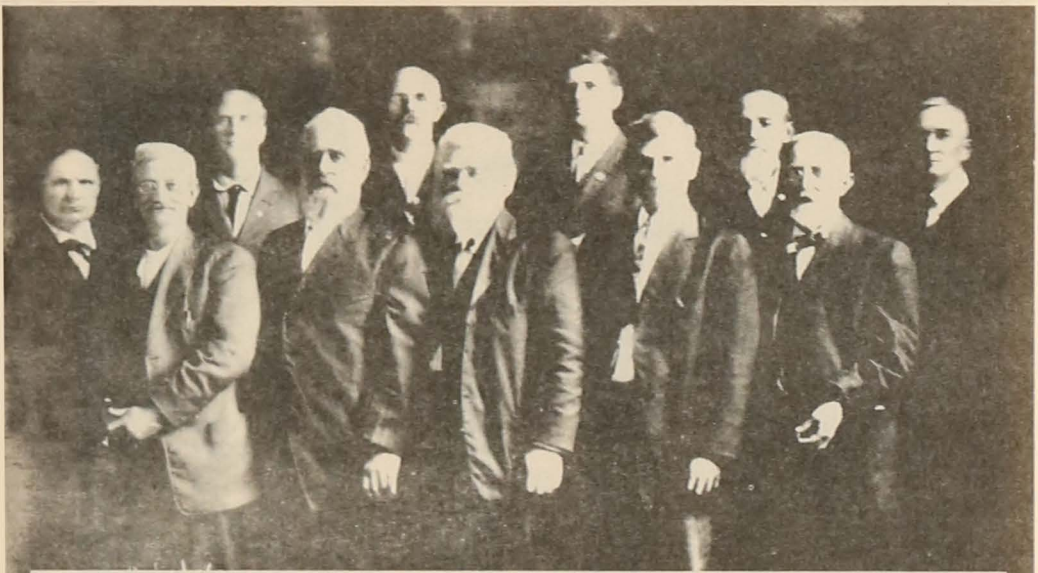


The Arkansas Building as it was. Sketch from Photo by Kirby Estes.

This picture has run in Flashback before. We can't recall whether these men were assembled at a best beard contest; because they were all Civil War veterans or because they were the oldest residents of Sulphur City. Perhaps Lloyd McConnell can tell us. In any event, it shows the present hirsute-minded generation what it was like when beards were really beards. And just to keep the older generation (that's us) from feeling too smug, we are running a picture of one of the "in" hair and beard styles of the past century. How about that you Hippie Haters?

Clothing and equipping the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department was a constant problem, according to minutes of the city council meetings in the 1880's. By year 1897 the problem had been apparently and splendidly solved. Here is Washington Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 in their brand new uniforms.

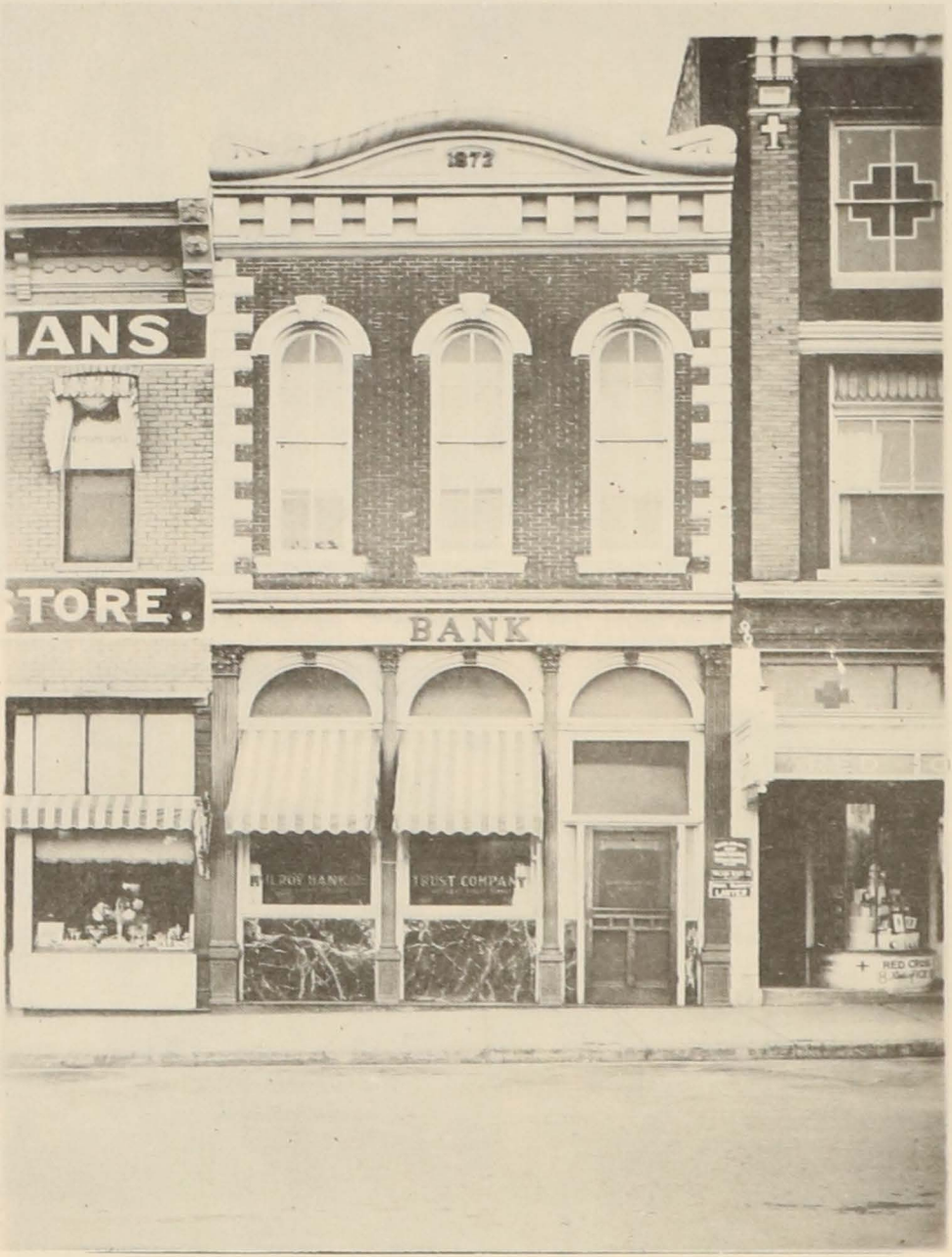
According to the 100 Years Ago column in the NW Arkansas Times, an 1874 editor of the Fayetteville Democrat observed that it seemed a crying shame to waste good ammunition on birds when there were so many males walking around with their hair parted in the middle. This photo of the A.I.U. scrub footballers of 1902 shows that the fad survived the editor's opinion of such a hair style. Note the unanimity of parts.



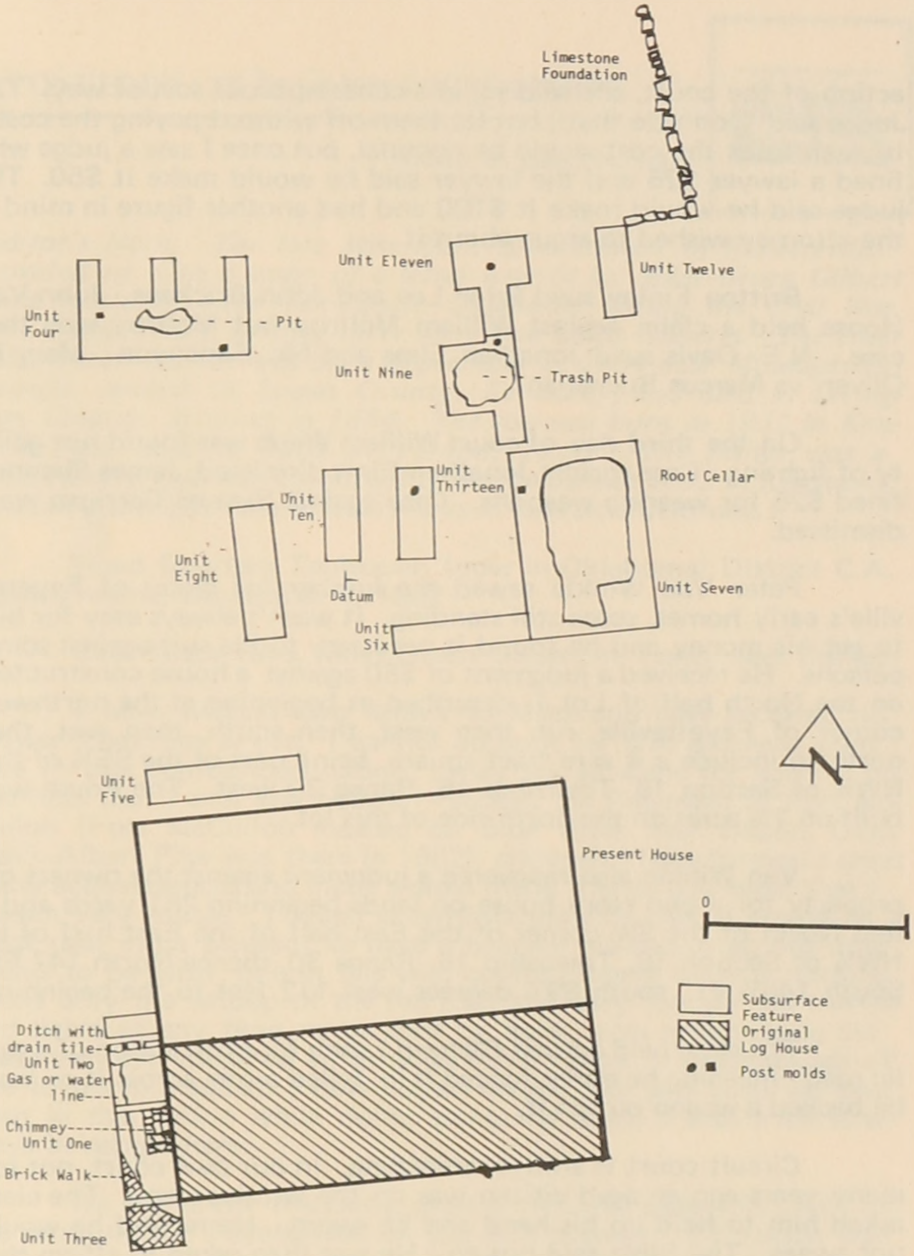
Town Marshals came and went with great rapidity in Fayetteville's early years. Here is a collection of Washington County Sheriffs from Reconstruction through the year 1912. The photo represents an unbroken chain of lawmen from 1876-1912.

Left to right they are: Sam Marrs, J.H. Pettigrew, W.C. Jackson, A.B. Kell, Kit Phillips, George Dean, Bill Rollins, Ike Combs, Oxford, George Lake and Hugh Dinsmor

This was the Airdrome Theatre Orchestra of 1915. They played at the open-air movie emporium, corner of E. Center and College. The picture show was owned and operated by Henry Tovey, Lyle Bryan and Owen Mitchell. Musicians are: Top Row: Bruce Rollins, Kuk Brown, Lester Fritz, Walter Lemaster, Floyd Broyles, Lyle Bryan, C. Smith, John Skillern, Ned DeWitt, Bill Summers. Front Row: Owen Mitchell, Charles Skillern, Edgar Wright, Roy Scott, James Chapman, Boomer Ladd, Dave Hansard, Mack Hulse. We have often wondered if maybe... just maybe, any of the cornets in the group might have been part of the batch of instruments left behind by Federal Troops after the Civil War and then ordered collected by the City Council in 1884 for a "kids" band. You never know.



This is the old McIlroy Bank building, as it looked in the early 30's, before it absorbed the building to the west. These were the original quarters of "The Oldest Bank In Arkansas", built in 1872, as the date at the top of the building signifies. This building and the Stone Building on the NE corner of the square are the two oldest buildings there. Both are in the process of being razed at this writing.



Above is plat of digs referred to in the Ridge House Archeological Story

action of the court, and said so, in a contemptuous sort of way. The Judge said 'Don't do that', but let them off without paying the cost. In such cases the cost would be nominal, but once I saw a judge who fined a lawyer $25 and the lawyer said he would make it $50. The judge said he would make it $100 and had another figure in mind if the attorney wished to argue about it.

Britton Finley sued Prior Lee and John Brickens. John Van-Hoose held a claim against William McIlroy but McIlroy won the case. N.E. Davis sued Jonathan Elms and Mr. Elms won. Mary N. Oliver vs Marcus Buchanan.

On the third day of court William Webb was found not guilty of fighting. Case against Jonathan Elms dismissed; James Shannon fined $25 for wearing weapons. Case against Samuel Carrigan was dismissed.

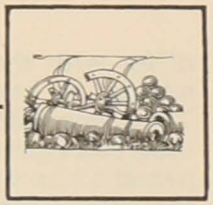
Peter Van Winkle sawed the lumber for many of Fayetteville's early homes, some still standing. It wasn't always easy for him to get his money and he found it necessary to file suit against some persons. He received a judgment of $50 against a house constructed on the North half of Lot 1, described as beginning at the northwest corner of Fayetteville, run then west, then south, then east, then north to include a 4 acre tract square, being part of the SE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 16, Township 16, Range 30 west. The house was built on 1¾ acres on the north side of this lot.

Van Winkle also recovered a judgment against the owners of property for a two story house on lands beginning 261 yards and 2 feet North of the SW corner of the East half of the East half of the NW¼ of Section 16, Township 16, Range 30, thence North 147 Ft. South 146½ Ft., south 89½ degrees west 112 feet to the beginning.

The state held against Richard Leach for obstruction of a public road - meaning he either fenced it in, felled a tree across it or maybe backed a wagon out on it.

Circuit court is always interesting. In our own court, not too many years ago an aged citizen was on the witness stand. The clerk asked him to hold up his hand and be sworn. He replied he would not swear. The Bible said not to. He was then asked to affirm that his testimony would be the truth and he agreed. Judge Cummings was diplomatic.

A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER WRITES HOME



lucian d. gilbert c.s.a.

(Editor's Note: The late Miss Ruth Ann Tolbert of Fayetteville provided us with a copy of a letter written by Miles Green Gilbert while *stationed near Tahlequah, Oklahoma during the Civil War. Miss Tolbert told us that there were two Miles Gilberts. The elder Miles Green Gilbert was born September 6, 1804 near Milledgeville, Georgia, moved to Logan County, Kentucky, and died in Livingston County, Missouri in 1854. The son was born in 1832 in Kentucky and died in 1909 in Vernon, Texas. The father was a Presbyterian, but was converted to Methodism in 1832 in Kentucky by Peter Cartright. His obituary says he was an ardent one.)*

Head Quarters Tahlequah (now in Oklahoma) District C.A.
Camp Provine, September 4, 1862

Dear Niece (Mrs. Miles Green Gilbert in Texas, near Dallas):

I have written two letters to Miles and have received no answer from him as yet. I cannot account for it in any way, I am here in this confounded nation, I may say all alone for there is no one here that I ever saw before I reached the Regiment at Fort McCulloh (Fort McCulloh located on Blue River near Caddo, Okla. Gen's Albert Pike was there in 1862), although I have formed a great many acquaintances and made a great many friends and some that I esteem very much. Though notwithstanding all this, it would be a great deal more pleasant to have a beloved relative or an old time friend to be with one in this wild country where there is nothing heard only the whoop of the red men and they too are our enemies and liable at any time to be shot by them, even riding along the road, they are scattered all through this country in small squads of five to ten in a squad. I have known several men shot since we have been in this nation while riding along the road; a man's life is always in danger here.

We are under marching orders. We will leave this point in the morning for Fayetteville on the line between this nation and Arkansas. Gen. Hyndman (sic) & Gen. Cooper were with us yesterday. Gen. H. is in command of our troops at this time. He intends concentrating all his forces at Fayetteville and marching to Missouri, where we expect a big fight. The federals are fortifying at Springfield, Missouri. Gen. Hyndman is of opinion that we will defeat them easily and then march for St. Louis, but I beg leave to

differ with the distinguished Gen. H. I have been in the army long enough to know something about it. Our Brigade is perfectly raw. They have not drilled since we left Fort McCulloh and I know when they run against the Feds they will be whipped and badly, for I happened to be in a party once that jumped them up. For instance at the little fight at Manassas, Virginia, and we thought that we could whip any force of twice our number that could be brought against us for we were well drilled and under good discipline, but found that they were as well drilled as we were and it was all we wanted to get through with them as soon as we possibly could and I say for one I do not care particularly whether I ever see the "Elephants" again or not. For I assure you, I am perfectly satisfied. We are having a hard time, provisions are very scarce and as for clothing it is folly to think of it for there is none here and a great many of our men are nearly naked and bare-footed. Boots, when you can find a pair for sale, they ask you from $25 to $30 a pr. I hope you are all seeing a much better time than this for I assure you that it is a hard one.

I have heard that they are taking all the men that hired substitutes and returned home to Texas under the Conscript Act. Some one in Bushes Co. said that they had taken Miles but I did not believe it for I do not think that any man that has a substitute can be enlisted again and that is the opinion of all the Generals & Col. in our command. I am of the same opinion and I shall rest easy until I hear from you and I hope when I do hear from you that you and your family are all at home enjoying the sweets of a family circle around your own hearthstones, where the enjoyment of this life is only to be found and enjoyed and where I hope if I shall be so fortunate as to live out this war to participate with you and yours. yet the faint hope still glimmers in my mind, that kind providence may so order it that I may again be permitted to gaze upon her sweet countenance and live with her to part no more until the all wise Creator shall see fit to separate us by calling one of us to the judgement Bar. I know that you can sympathize me in my feelings, for you are a parent as well as myself.

Enough of this for this time and if ever I shall meet with you again we can talk of the past, but now for the present and the future. I believe I wrote to Miles that I had sent some waggons to Fort Smith.

under charge of my assistant, Mr. Foss, for ammunition.They had to go to Little Rock as they could not get it at Fort Smith. I have not heard a word from them since they left, but I suppose they will be in next week. I am needing Mr. Foss very much for I am very busy. The health of Regiment is pretty good and I have not had an hours sickness since I have been in the service.

Gen. Cooper had 5 Indians shot day before yesterday for desertion.

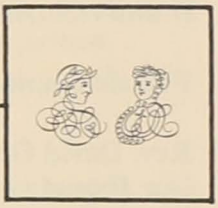
Business calls and I must attend to it, I would have written much more to you if I had the time. Hoping that this very imperfect epistle will find you and yours happy I will close by ascribing myself your affectionate Uncle.

L.D.Gilbert (Lucian)

P.S. Write as soon as you receive this.

—WCHS—

COUNTY MARRIAGES – 1884



Lloyd McConnell

Goshen couple, William Hash, 27 and Miss Mary Mayes, 16 were married by the Rev. J.W. Dutton on November 23rd.

John F. Haynes, 29 of West Fork and Miss Adeline Hubbard of Blackmer (probably Blackburn) age 18, were married by Sion R. Caudle a Justice of the Peace on March 14th.

J.E. Head, 27 of West Fork, married Miss Elizabeth Fields, 21 of Crosses, or Cross Roads, on March 13th. The Reverend Johnson Crawford performed this wedding.

E.W. Heath, 50 and Miss Juliet Hayes, 24 of Fayetteville were man and wife by the pronouncement of Justice Johnathan Clark on September 4th.

A Strickler couple, Charles Hendrickson, 24 and Miss Sarah C. Reynolds, 18 were married on March 25th by Andrew J. Mackey, a minister of the Gospel.

Cont'd - Page 40

MISS SAWYER'S SCHOOL

pat donat

This is chapter number six in our seven part series featuring the letters of Miss Sophia Sawyer written to the Reverend David Greene at the American Board of Foreign Missions in Boston during the period 1838-1848. The original letters have been found in the archives of the Board and laboriously transcribed by member Pat Donat. Readers will recall that by 1848, relations between Miss Sawyer and teacher Ann James had come to an ascerbic impasse, each of the women appealing to her friends for support. As we pick up the chain of correspondence Sophia is fanning the flames with still another letter to the Reverend Greene, calling upon him for understanding and support in her efforts to keep Ann James from wresting control of the Fayetteville Female Seminary from its founder and rightful head, Miss Sophia.

Female Seminary, Fayetteville, May 10th, 1848

Rev. David Greene
Our Friend:

Yours of the 15th of April has been received. We thank you for this and all past favors.

Now as it regards Miss James – Does not two and two make four in Arkansas as well as in Massachusetts? Are not all sides of the square equal and all its angles right angles here as well as there? If the philosophy, which denies the assistance of external objects be true – the rose having neither form, color nor fragrance, then I am out of my senses and Miss James capable of doing what she was declared to be.

If I may understand the character of the communications that reach Boston from the returns which meet me, I am arraigned, by the advocates of Miss James, tried and condemned, ready for execution, without counsel, judge or jury, on my part a privilege not denied to criminals in our courts of justice. Were I permitted to speak for myself I feel as if I would plead my own cause in the face of a hundred witnesses and relate, step by step, the course I have taken and my reasons for it, such has been the tenacity feeling has

given to memory, when my heart has been torn between a desire to sustain Miss James and save our sinking institution. Then the climax: Mr. Mecklin, who has labored two years, directly or indirectly to place himself at the head of this Seminary – a gentleman fully capable of judging of the capabilities of Miss James – learning in confidence my fears respecting her, to come out now with his interference when he has not risked a dollar to sustain her. I fear the truth will be that those who have been free to express their opinion of Miss James have not the honesty or independence to express it to her or to those who advocate her cause. This I foresaw and have acted honestly.

Sophia's reference to Mr. Mecklin, founder of the Ozark Institute at Mt. Comfort came because of a letter the mentor of the boy's school had written to Boston backing Ann James position against Sophia. Sophia's letters to Boston thereafter, were filled with lamentations of how she was beset by enemies on all sides, as witness these next two messages from the besieged teacher to the Boston parson.

Saturday, 20th (May)
Dear sir,

Last Thursday, after a day of usual perplexity in school, just able to pass into the square on business with two Indian pupils by my side to help me remember. On our return we passed the P.O. and received your last. Passing my bundle into the hands of my Creek pupil, I braced my mind to receive another letter of accusation and reproof. As I reached our steps at the musick house I had finished the Letter. The contents had taken full possession of my soul. I exclaim with the dying Caesar, 'And thou too, Brutus!' Then should I have welcomed the cold steel in my bosom, such was my horror of any longer being held up to public view the constant object of the strife of tongues with all the aggratavting labors and responsibilities of the school pressing upon me; and now misrepresented until the man whose good opinion I prized above all others turned against me. My very frame seemed sinking, had there been less combativeness in my composition I believe I should have fainted. When conscience reproved, I said, "Yes, I do well to be angry unto death." Slept little the following night - in the morning was just able to enter the school room - passed most of the labor into the hands of the monitor, one

of the sweetest tempers and dispositions that ever lived - kept order and quiet in school - was courteous to Miss James except twice when she was breaking her own rules and the well known rules of the school by carrying the labors of one hour into another and thus destroying government and arrangement. Today, Saturday, 20th am quiet about everything. It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in man. All the days of my appointed time will work until my change cometh.

S. Sawyer

21st When court is over, I have the promise of a gentleman who is willing to express his opinion to you as he did yesterday to me, that Miss James is not the person she was recommended to be; and that they did me gross injustice in charging her failures on me. It is the gentleman with whom Miss James first boarded and who saw her first attempts at the piano, for after all the complaints of obstacles to her success, she had the control of one for her own use in 18 hours after she reached us, and I devised that whatever else was left undone to secure the music - knowing the expectation and feelings of our patrons. If the drawing and painting is not taken from Miss James, it will pass out of this school for I am full unconvinced (sic) that she does not understand the principles like Mr. Freyschlag, a German instructed in his native country. Miss James will decide whether she will remain and take the place in school that its interest requires or leave us. She seems to have good feeeling now and if let alone would sacrifice pride to usefulness. Does much better in making children understand. No change will be made this season.

S. Sawyer

Miss Sawyer's tortuous syntax and archaic style is hard to follow, but her resentment of Ann James comes shining through. But we have the chance to hear the other side of the story, for in this case we have access to Ann James autobiography written fifty years after these events and her version is quite different from Sophia's. She told of her replacement as Seminary music teacher and of her decision to turn down Sophia's offer of lowered status and move on.

"As Miss S. did not wish to make a permanent change, she could not send back to the Society; indeed it would take too long and some arrangement must be made at once, for the scholars were gathering in. There was a German family then living in Fayetteville.

The mother and older members of the family had been thoroughly educated in Germany and had long wished to be employed in Miss S's school. They were equal to the task as far as teaching was concerned, for there was no breaking through place to their education. The mother, an old lady, would take her seat at the piano in deshabille disheveled hair, bare arms and feet and play skilfully, page after page of operatic music for the entertainment of her callers. The daughters were the milliners, dressmakers, corset makers, old umbrella menders and in fact did everything that would bring in money, even to assisting their father, who was a distiller.

Even fifty years after the events, Ann James couldn't resist getting in a couple of zingers at the two German girls who had the bad taste to work at anything that would bring in a buck. Perhaps it was helping pater mix the mash for the drinkin' whiskey that really turned Ann off , but then again, milliners and corset makers were held in as low repute back then as distillers were, so the whole picture was no doubt painted to show just how gauche the Freyschlag's were ... as compared to Ann James, of course. And with oh. so delicate consideration for relatives who might have survived after half a century, she never once mentions the 'German Family' by name. But in any age the Freyschlags would have been considered 'characters'. They lived on the land where the University of Arkansas now stands. The next year they sold it to William McIlroy and four Freyschlags , including the brother and sister who taughter musick and drawing at the Seminary went trouping off to California with 112 other Fayetteville forty-niners, lookin' for gold. Ann James continues with her description of the fabulous Freyschlag

"They were jolly and fun loving, could be heard at a distance, playing secular (!) music and laughing loud on Sunday (!) as on any other day. They made no profession of religion and would encourage the young people of the town to dance, etc., which of course pleased the girls, if not the teachers. They were not popular with the parents, who had always been opposed to them as teachers of their children, but now it was the best thing that could be done so they were employed; one to teach music, another to teach drawing. The brothers would come in and accompany the music class with their flutes and violins. Then they told Miss Sawyer that they could not only tune the pianos, but if they were broken, could mend them. She became perfectly charmed with the arrangement and by the time I was able to teach again, she had become afraid of dismissing them

for fear they would secure the town girls as pupils, for they were already giving them extra lessons out of school hours and inviting them to cotillion parties, etc, etc, so she had good reason to fear. Under the circumstances, the dear old lady was sadly perplexed. The first step she took out of the dilemma was to offer me a subordinate position in the school, but Robert Mecklin, Esq., principal of the Ozark Institute, who had promised the Society to watch over my interests, advised me not to accept her offer, which I had no idea of doing. As soon as it was known that I was going to establish a school of my own I was invited to several localities where Miss Sawyer's best scholars came from. I did not go to any of them, but chose Mt. Comfort, three miles north of Fayetteville and near enough for me to board in Mr. Mecklin's family, where I could have the best society the country then afforded. There were a number of young ladies who were desirous to obtain an education, but their parents were not able to send them to boarding school. They could have ridden to Fayetteville, but the Indian element of Miss Sawyer's school was an insurmountable objection with many of them. They offered me the church to teach in, which was a large, airy brick room about thirty feet square and made a comfortable school room. I at once commenced to build a concert room onto the side of the church, where a door would open into it. I purchased two pianos and in a short time the school was fairly under good headway and my domestic comfort greatly improved.

All the foregoing was written by Ann James fifty years after the fact, of course. and when Sophia Sawyer wrote her continued letter starting on May 10th and continued in chapters on the 20th and 21st, she knew nothing of Ann's decision to leave and start her own school. So still all unknowing, Sophia decided to try a different tack to convince her Boston Brahman that whatever ailed the Fayetteville Female Seminary was entirely the fault of Ann James and not Sophia Sawyer. As an exercise the week of June 7th, 1848, she had a few of her brighter girls compose letters describing their experiences . The notes are mostly girlish prattle about courses, family chit-chat and stilted little Biblical references of the kind young girls supposed would be expected of them by so high a sachem of the Church.. The letters are laced with innocent little asides about the activities of Ann James. How much of these references were coached out of them by Miss Sawyer we don't know, but whatever the motives for the letters, they do give a quaint picture of school life 126 years ago, in the words of the young women who experienced it.

Fem. Seminary, Fayetteville
June 7th, 1848

Respected sir,

We were glad to hear from you in Miss Sawyer's letter and the interest you have taken in our school. It is going on very well indeed, although there has been some interruptions. The pupils continue to enjoy good health and are progressing finely in their studies.

The session will close the first of August, with a public examination of two days. My studies are the same as when I wrote last, except Botany, which I do not like as well as my other studies as I do not have any taste for flowers.....There are two Cherokees here now and there was an orphan came in today sent by Mr. Stand Watie. There is a Creek girl here also.....I have not seen my parents since last September except father who came up once and spent a day with me.....Miss James visited the Nation last vacation but I do not know where she will spend it in August; but I hope she will go again. She was much pleased with the pupils and the country. *(Amazing indeed, in light of the fact that Ann caught the typhoid that led to her incapacity which led to her troubles with Miss Sawyer. It may be the young Indian girl was remembering only the good times)*

Miss Sawyer is very well at present
From your Cherokee friend
Jane Williams

Jane was the Cherokee girl who had accompanied Ann on her journey to the Indian Territory soon after the teacher's arrival from the East. The spunky girl had proven herself a stout horsewoman and an able protector during Ann's journey through tribes of various persuasions and a firm bond had grown up between her and Miss James. Jane's comments concerning the presence of two Cherokees and a Creek at the school makes it appears that Indians were becoming steadily outnumbered by local white girls. Indeed, Ann James' comments concerning white parents attitude toward Indian pupils at the Seminary indicates a prejudice which never found its way into any of Sophia Sawyer's letters back to Boston. The other four letters from Miss Sawyer's girls are fairly repetitive, so we skim them, plucking the pithiest parts from each, plus the little droppings about Ann James.

June 8th, 1848
Reverend sir.

I have derived much instruction from the faithful order of

the missionaries who left their pleasant homes and came to this western wilderness to teach the poor Indians the ways of salvation. I went to Dwight (Mission School in the Nation) nearly four years. It was there I first learned to distinguish A from B.

I lost my mother when very young. My father was at Washington transacting business for the Indian Nation when the melancholy news reached him. About two and a half years later, he was married to Judge Harnage's daughter. She lived five years after her marriage before consumption fastened his hold on her vitals. We entertained hopes of her recovery for a long time, but as warm weather came on she grew worse until her spirit ascended to the God who gave it.

Perhaps you would like to know how Miss Sawyer conducts her school. At half past seven we are assembled in the primary department and all that are able read in the Bible. Our teacher then offers up a short but fervent prayer for the benefit of the school. When prayers are concluded we all go to our several studies, some to needle work, others to philosophy and others to algebra. We are assembled together at 11 o'clock to write. We paint at 2. From 3 to 4 we attend to plain sewing. At 5 a large class of young ladies read in Worcester's fourth book; at half after five we are dismissed. (Ed. Whew!)
From your Cherokee friend
Josephine R. Bell

Reverend and dear sir,

.....There are three schools in town at present (1848), two female and one male school. Miss Sawyer's school is going on very well at present. There are about 53 scholars in school, most of whom board in town. There are twelve girls from the Cherokee Nation and 19 from different parts of the state. The remainder of the school reside in town.....Miss James not having time to attend to drawing, Miss Sawyer has given the class into Mr. Freyschlag's hands. He teaches on a plan different from Miss James. Miss James is taking lessons of him.
From your young friend
Ann Bell

Rev. D. Greene ,

As it is Miss Sawyer's desire for me to write to you I will try and write a few lines. I am almost afraid to commence addressing a man of your acquirements and station in life. I have been going to school here three or four sessions. The first time I came up here was in 1843.

This morning, just before we had finished reading in the Bible

a little girl came in with a beautiful bird in her hand. It is called the Yellowhammer. She caught it in the Music Room by the window. Miss Sawyer had a tumbler brought in and placed the little bird under it so the scholars could see the beautiful creature. Miss Sawyer wishes me to tell you about the birds, but it is out of my power to do so, I know nothing of the birds, only to look at them and hear them sing. In the morning the birds are up bright and early, singing their melodious songs. Their habits and instincts I do not know.
From your Cherokee friend
Ellen Martin

Reverend Sir,

.....Miss Sawyer has a new piazza which has lately been erected. It exhibits a lovely appearance; it makes the seminary look a great deal better. It is a very pleasant place to study. It is very delightful to one who looks out from the piazza to behold the mountains that surround the seminary in their verdure. There is a few of houses to the South but they look like mere specks from the piazza.
From your Cherokee friend
Susan Thompson

When Sophia herself next wrote Reverend Greene, she sent news for which she may have been secretly praying - Ann's imminent divorcement from the Seminary.

Rev. D. Greene
Our friend,

We received your last a few weeks since and in accordance with your advice invited Miss James to remain in the school – offering her every inducement that the best interest of the school would permit. Perhaps, sir, it would give you some satisfaction to know that I have not acted in the arrangements of this institution without reference to gentlemen who are capable of judging of things passing under their eyes and who have urged me to retain the responsibility that I have so illy sustained. How long must I fight at the "straits" before I find help I know not. Miss James is still in school, her interest is away, she being engaged to lay the foundation of a female school three miles from this. Another female school is in town with an educated teacher, whose prices are one half less than mine, yet you see ours numbers 55. If I am led to relinquish, it will be flattery not force by which they accomplish their object.

The happy, almost story-book ending to this series comes in the next issue of Flashback - if you can wait until February, 1975.

QUERIES FROM READERS

DUNLAP–WALTRIP

Mrs. Thelma S. Girard, 704 Stone boulevard, West Sacramento, Cal. 95591 asks: Need parents of Samuel Dunlap, born 1799 in Vermont. Married Mary Ann (?), c. 1823/24 in Virginia. Children: William, b. Ohio c. 1825, d. California; John, b. Ohio c. 1830, d. California; Delany, b. Ohio c. 1833; Samuel, b.c. 1836 Indiana, d. California; Charles, b.c. 1838 Indiana, d. California 16 Dec. 1919; Hiram, b. Illinois c. 1842, d. California; Martha, b. Arkansas c. 1848 Louisa, b. Arkansas c. 1851. Was Malinda Waltrip, age 15 in the 1850 census really Melvina who married John Dunlap in 1851? Did her mother and father, James and Nancy, marry in Washington Co.? Was her maiden name Oxford? If all these questions are yes, then they are buried in the Watsonville cemetery in California. I will be happy to correspond with anyone working on these lines."

FITZGERALD

Gerald J. Carter, 916 N.E. Sixth, Moore, Oklahoma 73160 sent the Society $20 to start a fund for a sign on the Fitzgerald Cemetery. This cemetery is located just outside the northeast city limits of Springdale, and Mr. Carter hopes that other descendants will be able to make contributions for this purpose. He thinks the sign would cost about $100.

YORK

We've had inquiries about York's Lead Mine, supposedly located in the southwest part of Washington County. Can anyone locate this for us?

(MAYBERRY – (MAEBERRY) – PASS – COWAN

Mrs. James Cowan, 510 West First Street, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 stopped in the Society's offices to make inquiries about an article on the Cowan family, written by Irene Galloway. It's not in our FLASHBACK index; can anyone recall where it appeared? She also made the following request: Susan West married J.E. Pass c. 1850 Their daughter Olive Gabrillia Pass, after the death of her parents, lived with an aunt by the name of Mayberry (John Mayberry was her

husband). We are searching for anyone of the Pass line. Where they are buried, where they lived, etc. They lived in the vicinity of Lake Wedington.

REEDER–WEST–McINTIRE–BLAIR

Does anyone have information about the following families who lived in Illinois township, Washington County, Arkansas between 1820-1860? Micajah Reeder, son Noah Reeder (wife Dorcas Blair), and Jonathan R. West (methodist minister, wife Nancy McIntire). Where are they buried? Mary J. Peterson, 925 Louis Street, Eugene, Oregon, 97402 would like to know.

COX–SCOTT–LEA

Mrs. Del Harris, 1004 W. Fremont, Selah, Washington, 98942 desires information on Nancy Cox, Widow of John Cox. She was born 1818, Tennessee, died November 1886, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Children of John & Nancy were: Wm. H., b. Illinois 1836; Mary E. b. Illinois 1838, m. Hiram Miller 1858 Washington Co., Arkansas; Delila C., b. Illinois 1839 m. Wm. Pleasant Scott; James R., b. Missouri, 1840; Margaret J., b. Missouri 1842, m. Pryor Lee; Robert S., b. Missouri 1845; Rebecca M., b. Missouri 1847; Charles T., b. Missouri 1850. Robert S., Delia C., and Nancy Cox are all buried in Mt. Comfort cemetery, Fayetteville, Arkansas. This family in Jasper County, Missouri 1850-1860. Any information welcome. Will exchange Scott, Cox and Lea data.

PYEATT–MARRS

Billy J. Cook, 2215 North 24th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008 would like information about Peter Pyeatt's and Polly Miller Pyeatt's oldest son: Samuel Miller Pyeatt, born 1821, married Marrs. Would like names and birthdates of their children? also, which Marrs.

HODGES–DYE

Nancy A. Long, 6309 Edgefield, Lakewood, California 90713 is anxious to learn who were the parents of Robert W. Hodges and Sarah Dye who married at Billingsley (Hogeye) on November 1, 1855. She would like to know also where and when Sarah died.

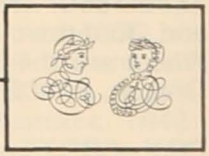
NOTES AND REQUESTS (next page)

We have requests for EARLY SETTLERS OF CANE HILL, PYEATTS AND CARNAHANS, and CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF SHIBLEY BROTHERS. If you have finished with your copies and do not wish to keep them, we will appreciate your sending them to Box 357, Fayetteville, Arkansas. We can resell them.

Mrs. Mary Field of Little Rock sent us a box of old FLASHBACKS for which we are grateful. Sometimes we have an inquiry for an older number which we cannot fill. Thank you, Mrs. Field.

–WCHS–

1884 Marriages, Cont'd.



C.L. Henson, 23 and Miss Fannie Cruse, 22, both of Prairie Grove went to the Reverend William Penn who united them on May 29th.

W.H. Kennedy, a preacher, performed the December 18th ceremony for Durham couple, R.W. Hindricks, 25 and Miss Julia A. Malloy, 18.

The Reverend Eli Baker was the officiating minister at the nuptials of Robert Hodges and Miss Ella Fleming, 21, both of Fayetteville on July 14th.

R.A. Holland, 25 and Miss Emma Childres, 23, an Evansville couple were before preaching-elder George F. Tatum for a ceremony on 14, August.

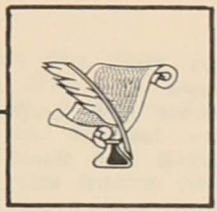
John A. Holland, 29 of Fayetteville and Miss Jennie Thomas, 20, also a Fayetteville resident, went to Farmington Justice of the Peace J.P. Wilson who declared them to be husband and wife on June 13th.

T.B. Kelley, Brentwood, age 42 and Mrs. M.E.Lenard, age 34, were married by Justice of the Peace D.E. Jackson on February 24th.

Springdalians Otto F. Kennen, 26 and Miss Sarah S. Bartholomew were wed by the bride's kinsman A. Sloan Bartholomew on September 30th.

G.W. King, 32 and Miss Mae (or Mal) Dean, 20, both of Strain on the Middle Fork were married by the Reverend Johnson Crawford on March 30th.

WCHS MEMBERS – 1974-75



Adams, Mrs. Roy
Adkisson, Mr. & Mrs. V.W.
Agee, Jacob C. DDS
Alexander, Mrs. Lewis
Alford, Mrs. Beatrice L.
Allen, Linda
Allen, Mrs. Maude G.
Allen, Wanda Sue
Allison, Geraldine
Anderson, Jay H.
Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. John F.
Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. T.C.
Angerman, Barbara Haws
Apple, Louis
Ashworth, John A.
Askew, Betty
Askew, Mrs. Hugh
Askew, Mrs. Richard
Atkinson, Charles W. & Dorothy
Avery, Mrs. Hester A.
Baerg, W. J. & Eloise
Bagby, Mertye McIlroy
Baggett, Dr. Jeff
Baggett, John B.
Bailey, Mrs. Doris
Bain, Dr. Calvin
Bain, Waldo J.
Baker, Dr. Donald
Baker, W. O.
Ballard, Mrs. L. G.
Barkman, Mrs. Margaret
Barnett, Miss Frances
Barr, Mrs. H. T.
Barron, Mildred
Barron, W. L.
Basden, Mrs. B. J.
Bates, Mrs. J. Lucian
Baucum, Mrs. Toney
Beauchamp, Dr. R.O. DDS
Bell, Bunn and Louise
Bell, Mrs. Charles F.
Bell, Mrs. Clifton
Bell, Mrs. Lucy B.
Bell, Mrs. Margaret
Bell, Mr. & Mrs. Vincil B.
Bentley, Richard C.
Berge, Mrs. Kenneth G.
Best, Col. & Mrs. Philip H.
Bilbrey, Mr. & Mrs. Huse
Black, Arthur J.
Blackwell, Louise M.
Blais, Helen E.
Blevins, Roy
Bocquin, Helen
Boles, Mr. & Mrs. Chalmers B.
Boles, Edwin Vaulx
Bond, Mr. & Mrs. G.W.
Boone, Jeff
Boone, Joe S.
Bost, Mrs. Nola
Bowerman, Enoch L.
Brading, Roy W.
Bradshaw, Mrs. Bonnie
Brashears, J. Howard
Brewer, Archie
Brewster, Hugh
Brogdon, Mrs. Bennett
Bronson, Mr. & Mrs. W.S.
Brooks, Dr. & Mrs. Willard C.
Browne, Lawrence L.
Browne, Lt. Col. & Mrs. Lawrence L.
Browne, Col. & Mrs. Marvin L.
Broyles, Mr. & Mrs. Edward
Broyles, R. Berry DDS
Broyles, Mr. & Mrs. Russell
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Hale, William C.
Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Earl
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WCHS MEETING REPORT

The regular quarterly meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held Sunday, October 20, at the Mount Comfort Community Center. The distinguished Citizens Award was presented by Al Donaubauer to Mrs. Joy Pratt Markham for her civic, charitable and cultural contributions to the community. She was also made a Life Member of the Washington County Historical Society.

Mrs. Helen Bocquin reported on items received from the estate of Mrs. Nina K. Trible for use in Headquarters House. Mr. Tom Lavender reported on the extensive repairs and refurbishing of Headquarters House. Mrs. Lavender spoke of the extraordinary services rendered by the Prairie Grove 4-H Club in rebuilding the wall around the Confederate Cemetery as well as cleaning-up and mowing the grounds, putting up flag poles and planting flowers.

Songs were performed by Mrs. Fayre Lavender Doege and a chorus from the Prairie Grove 4-H Club.

Dr. Michael Hoffman, chairman of the department of anthropology at the University of Arkansas, spoke on the Indians of Northwest Arkansas.

Following the program a covered-dish supper was enjoyed.

—WCHS—

WCHS MEMBERSHIP LIST — concluded

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Kansas State Historical Society
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Shiloh Museum of Springdale
South Plains Genealogical Society
Springdale Public Library
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University of Arkansas Library
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White County Historical Society
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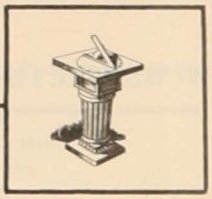
Woodruff County Historical Society

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



My work with the WCHS these last three years has given me some of the busiest and happiest years of my life. In every way possible the Society has grown, and I am pleased that I have been a part of that growth. Almost every month was a significant step forward but there were also some significant leaps forward: the decision to publish instead of mimeograph FLASHBACK, the acquisition and creation of the Tom Feathers Memorial Library, the successful campaign to save the Ridge House, and the preliminary work toward establishing a Washington County Historical Register of Sites and Buildings.

Everything did not see fruition. In particular, the establishment of the Arkansas Junior Historical Program never got beyond the planning stage, and the Tom Feathers Memorial Library is still being catalogued. With my term of office finished, I hope now to devote more time to these two very special projects of mine.

With the Bicentennial Year fast approaching, the WCHS can look forward to an increasingly important place in our community. and the new administration should continue to find itself engrossed in important, if somewhat hectic activity. I hope the membership will be as helpful to our new president as it has been to me.

In past letters I have paid tribute to the many people who helped me when help was needed, and my debt to all these is still very great. But in this final letter I would like to pay special tribute to my wife Thelma. Not only did she stand behind me at all times; quite often she stood in front of me, too--handling a hundred chores for me which made me look efficient and energetic. I was often given credit for accomplishments, for which she should have received credit, and I would like to set the record straight now and to thank her for being so gracious at all times about everything.

Sincerely, Dwain Manske, President

—WCHS—

...in FLASHBACK next time...

GOLD RUSH LETTERS

Freyschlag descendent, Mrs. O.W. Ferguson has furnished letters giving fascinating look at the adventures of Fayetteville Gold Rush participants during the 1850's.

AN 1889 KANSAS JOURNALIST LOOKS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mrs. Claiborne Mobley supplies these amusing reflections of a 'cosmopolitan' newspaperman on a patronizing visit to NW Arkansas before the turn of the century.

FAYETTEVILLE FEMALE SEMINARY CATALOGUE – 1859-60

Member Hildy Crawford supplies us with a verbatim transcript of a pre-war catalogue of school attended by so many of our members forebears.

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Day to day transactions of Fayetteville General Store in the 1870's.

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